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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2748
INFO RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 0102
RUEHTH/AMEMBASSY ATHENS 0031
RUEHKB/AMEMBASSY BAKU 0005
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0174
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 1109
RUEHSL/AMEMBASSY BRATISLAVA 0056
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 5489
RUEHBM/AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST 0550
RUEHUP/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST 0050
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0374
RUEHCP/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN 4058
RUEHDL/AMEMBASSY DUBLIN 0062
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 0184
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL 0033
RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON 0101
RUEHLJ/AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA 0047
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0180
RUEHLE/AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG 0404
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 1493
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 4657
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0694
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0101
RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE 0971
RUEHRK/AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK 0266
RUEHRA/AMEMBASSY RIGA 0838
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 0169
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 0363
RUEHSQ/AMEMBASSY SKOPJE 0060
RUEHSF/AMEMBASSY SOFIA 0400
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 8607
RUEHTL/AMEMBASSY TALLINN 4145
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 1372
RUEHTI/AMEMBASSY TIRANA 0103
RUEHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA 4660
RUEHVL/AMEMBASSY VILNIUS 3156
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 1848
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 0079
RUEHVB/AMEMBASSY ZAGREB 0073
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO 0926

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 001158

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [NATO](#) [PINS](#) [AG](#) [FI](#)

SUBJECT: DELIVERING ON NATO'S PROMISE TO AFGHANISTAN -
FINNISH RESPONSE

REF: STATE 186256

Classified By: POLCHIEF GREGORY THOME FOR REASONS 1.4(B) AND (D).

11. (SBU) PolChief delivered subject demarche to Kimmo Lahdevirta, Director of the Finnish MFA's Office of Security Policy. Lahdevirta expressed appreciation for US efforts to keep partners informed as the Riga NATO Summit approaches, and welcomed the fact that Afghanistan will feature prominently on the Summit agenda.

12. (C) Lahdevirta noted that Finland's commitment to the NATO/ISAF mission in Afghanistan remains solid "through the end of 2008 and beyond." Finland currently has about 105 troops in five locations in Northern Afghanistan, with the bulk of them serving in the Swedish-led PRT at Mazar-al-Shariff and the Norwegian-led PRT at Meymenah. The only change Finland is currently contemplating would be to increase its forces at those two locations by consolidating

the small numbers of soldiers it currently has remaining in Kabul and two other locations. No decision on such a move has yet been made, and it would be carefully coordinated with other ISAF partners.

13. (C) Lahdevirta also commented on the issues of caveats and PRT leadership. He noted that Finland has no formal or informal caveats, and expected no changes to this posture. As for PRT leadership, Lahdevirta said that Finland currently has no intention of taking over leadership of either of the PRTs in which it participates, mainly because both Sweden and Norway have renewed their commitments. However, Finland remains open to the idea of leading a PRT, perhaps in 2009.
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